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**Fahimeh Vahdat**

**“What Will Befall Them?”  
Artist's Statement**

We take language and home for granted; they become nature and their underlying assumptions recede into dogma and Orthodoxy...

Exiles cross borders, break barriers of thought and experience.

(Edward Said, *Reflections on Exile*)



Fig. 1: Fahimeh Vahdat, *What Will Befall Her*, 2008, charcoal on handmade paper, 7 x 5 inch., courtesy of the artist.

Growing up in a culture that has been under a long period of censorship, I have learned to speak through the language of metaphors. Currently the metaphor speaks through the layers of canvas and fabrics in a multitude of traditional and non-traditional ways. I cut, dye, sew, draw, paint, print and use space as a raw material for my work. The installation of most of my pieces requires corners.

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I feel I have been cornered by the dual life of an artist in exile who lives in ‘a world between’, who has been banned from going back to the motherland for over thirty years. The corners in my work are subject to that experience of ‘transitional duality’. The two realities that merge or separate are the experience of ‘in-betweenness’ that I speak of in my work. The issues of gender, identity and politics become the fabric of these works. In truth, they represent mass numbers of young women and men who are willing to give their lives for freedom in my un-adopted country. For that truth to come to reality, I voice the voiceless and my art becomes the face of the faceless.

My direct visual narrative deals with a single iconic image that is simple on the surface until the viewer encounters the fluid layers of meaning that reveal the depth of human suffering. More specifically the work confronts female oppression, violence and human rights abuses.

I strive to make art that questions rather than to provide answers.



Fig. 2: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Threat*, from the *Object of Violence* series, 2009, monotype on hand dyed canvas and mixed fabrics, 75 x 48 inch., courtesy of the artist.



Fig. 3: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Rope*, from the *Object of Violence* series, 2009, monotype on hand dyed canvas, etching, mixed fabrics and rope, 77 x 49 inch., courtesy of the artist.



Fig. 4: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Stop Shaking Me*, from the *Object of Violence* series, 2009/10, monotype and collage on hand dyed canvas and mixed fabrics, 238 x 82 inch., courtesy of the artist.



Fig. 5: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Lace*, from the *Object of Violence* series, 2009, monotype on mixed fabric, 148 x 50 inch., courtesy of the artist.



Fig. 6: Fahimeh Vahdat, *We Will Reach the Sun*, 2009, monotype and hand writing on mixed fabric, 173 x 48 inch., courtesy of the artist.



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Fig. 7: Fahimeh Vahdat, *For Freedom*, from the *Freedom* series, 2009/10, wood block and embroidery on hand dyed canvas, felt and fabric, 106 x 58 inch., courtesy of the artist.

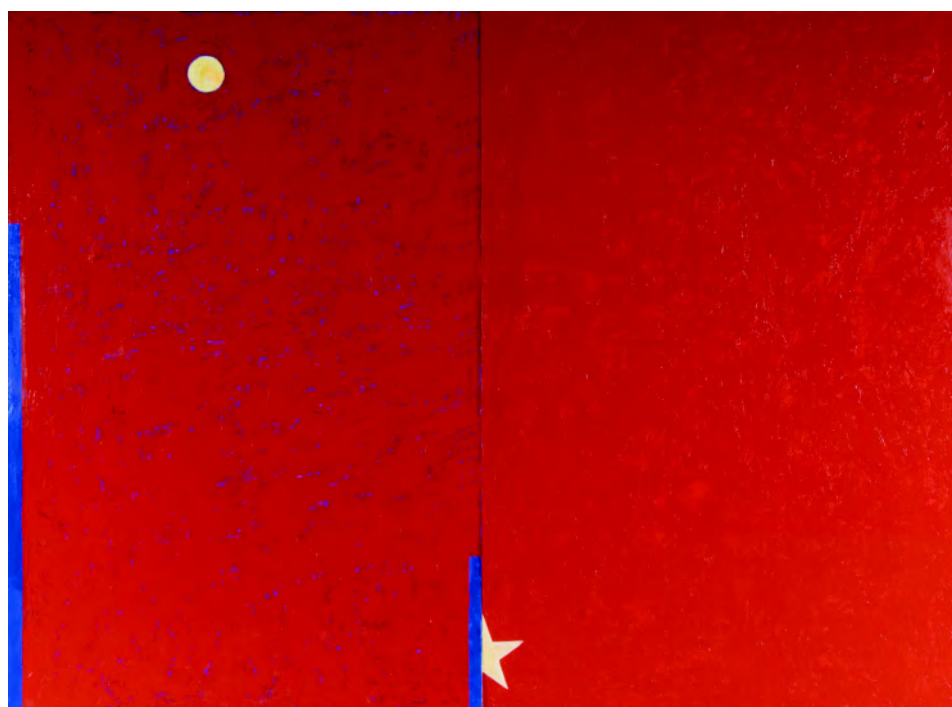


Fig. 8: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Eclipse*, 2008, oil, wax, collage on board, 8 x 8 inch., courtesy of the artist.

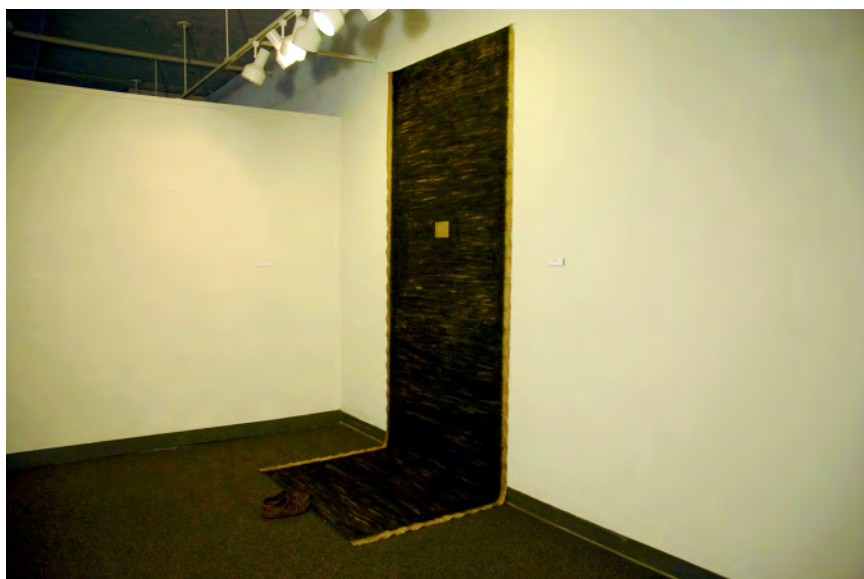


Fig. 9: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Kahriziak; Four by Six*, from the *Freedom* series, 2009, charcoal on linen and plastic sandals, 148 x 52 inch., courtesy of the artist.

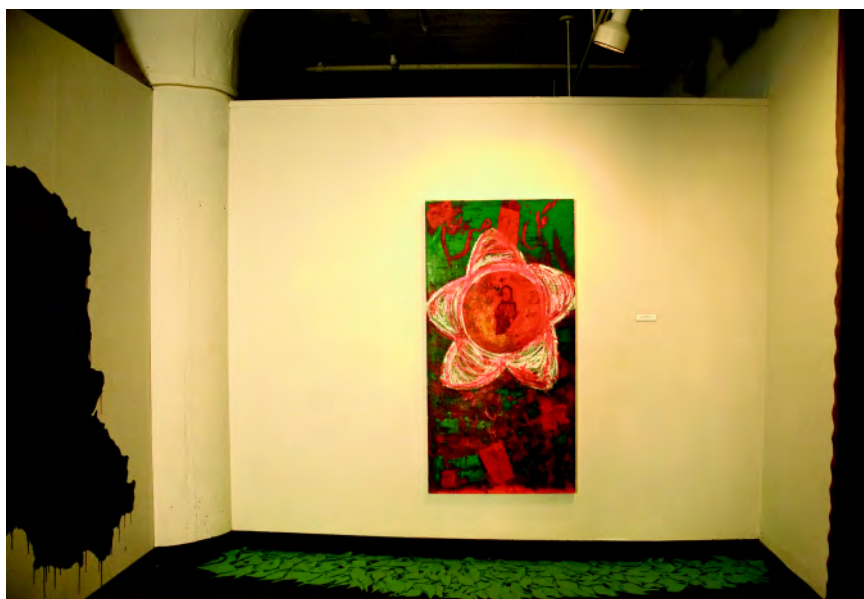


Fig. 10: Fahimeh Vahdat, *Gole Maryam; Neda my Hero*, 2009/10, encaustic and collage on canvas, felt and thread, 48 x 30 inch., courtesy of the artist.



Fig. 11: Fahimeh Vahdat, detail of *Gole Maryam; Neda my Hero*.